



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Thursday September 1, 2005 -- 05-036
District: District 2 - Redding
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans: Doing What it Can to Keep Traffic Down Over the Holiday Weekend

REDDING – With ever increasing gasoline prices and the last few days of summer upon us the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 2 will be limiting work on State Highways to reduce or eliminate traffic delays.

During the Labor Day weekend Caltrans maintenance and construction crews will suspend most work on State Highways. "Idling in traffic at three dollars a gallon can be frustrating" said Ed Lamkin, Deputy District Director of Maintenance and Operations, "Especially when you'd rather be enjoying the long weekend".

Historically over this holiday weekend Interstate 5 (I-5), State Routes (SR) 299, 273 and 44 can see increases up to 25% in Average Daily Volumes over normal traffic, with Monday seeing the largest increase as motorists return home. "Safety is our main priority. Avoidance of traffic delays due to roadwork is also a goal during the holidays", Lamkin said. "With the exception of a few construction projects or highway emergencies, there should only be minor, if any traffic delays in the North State".

A large project on SR 273 (North Market St.) in Redding will be suspended during the weekend to allow continued flow of traffic and access to businesses along the route.

Travelers returning south on I-5 near Weed, may experience some delays due to a bridge construction cone zone over the Shasta River. Traffic is currently being diverted to one lane in each direction through the cone zone and it would be impossible at this stage of construction to remove the traffic control.

Caltrans suggests checking their website for traveler information @ www.dot.ca.gov/dist2 before hitting the road. Resources such as local traffic cameras and road reports can assist people in determining their best route or time to travel.

Please remember to Slow for the Cone Zone.

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NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm

